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From the Office of the Director of Health

WIC Program Contract Renewed

A renewed contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will allow the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program to continue providing services to Greene County women, infants and children through fiscal year 2008.

"We are so pleased to be allowed to continue providing education and nutritional support to our clients," says program coordinator Tana Lovan. "These vital services empower our clients to improve their nutritional status and their overall health. We are also excited about our new programs that are providing a more comprehensive health care package to our clients."

New services available to families who participate in WIC include use of the Lactation Center for private breastfeeding and one-on-one breastfeeding peer counseling, childbirth classes, prenatal yoga and Itsy Bitsy yoga for new mothers and babies up to 6 months old. In addition, partnerships include birth coaching provided by Doulas of Mid-America and medical services offered at WIC by a nurse practitioner in partnership with the Jordan Valley Community Health Center.

"We are seeing new clients each month as the need for education and assistance continues to grow in Greene County," adds Lovan.

The WIC program provided 71,249 individual visits during the 2007 contract year.

WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program with a strong emphasis on education about nutrition-based health. The program provides nutrition education, nutritional screening, dietary risk assessment and counseling to pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children up to five years old. WIC also provides checks to purchase nutritious supplemental foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, juice, cereal, peanut butter, and/or dry beans or peas at numerous local businesses. New mothers who are breastfeeding may receive an enhanced food package.

(more)

For more information, contact:

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The WIC program is open to families who live in Missouri, with a gross income that meets or is below the income guidelines. Program benefits are provided to women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or whose pregnancy recently ended, infants less than 12 months and children under 5 years old who have a need for improved nutrition as determined by a nutrition professional. The unborn child is counted as a member of the family when eligibility is determined. For complete income eligibility information, go online to <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>.

The Springfield-Greene County WIC program currently offers services at its main office, located at 290 E. Central, as well as at satellite clinics in Willard, Republic and Springfield.

To learn more about WIC, or to make an appointment, visit the WIC office at 290 E. Central or call (417) 864-1079. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The Springfield-Greene County WIC program is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Services are provided on a non-discriminatory basis. Standards for participation in the WIC program are the same for everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap. If you desire information in an alternate form because of a disability, contact the Springfield-Greene County WIC Program, 290 E. Central, Springfield, MO 65802, or call (417) 864-1079. Hearing-impaired citizens may contact the department through Missouri Relay at 1-800-735-2966.

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